

# WHAT IS THE PRIME DIRECTIVE?

"Go into all the world and..."



"FOR I PASSED ON TO YOU AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT I ALSO RECEIVED – THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES..." (1 COR. 15:3 NET)

VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF ARMAGH, PA  
DECEMBER THE 1<sup>ST</sup>, AD 2024

# THE LORD'S DAY

The First Day of December, *in the Year of our Lord 2024*



- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -



Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

## Sunday School—9:30 AM.

In our examination of Church History, we examine some exemplary leaders of the past whose testimony still shines brightly to this very day.

## Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship: \* *“Grace Greater than our Sin”* (#38; chorus only).\*

Invocation.\*

Hymn: *“No Not One”* (#216).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 15:1-11.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *“Saved by the Blood”* (#222).

Announcements.

Hymn: *“Burdens are Lifted at Calvary”* (#353).

Dismissal for Children’s Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“FINAL SCRIPTURES THAT TODAY’S ELITES ABHOR.”*

Closing Hymn: \* *“Fill my Cup Lord”* (#220).

Benediction.\*

*\*Please stand, if able.*



### Week of Nov. 24 – Nov. 30

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—18;  
Midweek—No Service; Offering—\$384.00

Cover Art: *“Of First Importance,”* by Pastor Terry Reese

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## On the “Social Gospel” Movement...

by Pastor Terry L. Reese, 12/01/24

### WHAT IS IT?

A movement that arose within the ranks of Christendom during the *Progressive Era* (1890's-1920's) in response to the destructive excesses and social ills arising out of the increased industrialization and urbanization of the *Gilded Age* (1870's-1890's)—including extreme poverty, dangerous and exploitive working conditions (including child-labor), the breakdown of the family-unit, alcoholism, prostitution, various health concerns, etc.

### WHO HAS ADVOCATED THE SOCIAL GOSPEL?

The early Movement was a mixed-group, even including some sincere, reform-minded evangelicals. However, the Movement was in large measure associated with mainline theological LIBERAL MODERNISTS who denied the authority of Scripture and the cardinal affirmations of the historic Christian Faith. Today, the modern heirs of the original Movement are ultra-liberal, mainline WCC-type churches, as well as left-leaning “Progressive Evangelicals” who are heavily focused upon “social justice,” radical environmentalism, and other progressive causes.

### WHAT TENETS CHARACTERIZE THE “SOCIAL GOSPEL?”

The central idea behind the historic Social Gospel Movement and its modern progressive off-shoots is that the Church should *mainly* focus upon doing good in the “real world” (i.e., the material realm of the “here-and-the-now”) through social reform and political activism—as opposed to spending its valuable energies and resources upon such idle and otherworldly-oriented activities as personal evangelism and Bible-based theological indoctrination. The Church’s true calling & central emphasis is thus expressed in terms of “*Do politics—not evangelism!*” The **CHURCH**—not **CHRIST**—will usher in a new Golden Age through its civic activism.

### WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS WITH SUCH A MOVEMENT?

- Paul says that the Saving-Message of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ is of “**FIRST IMPORTANCE**” (1Cor.15:3-4)!
- Man’s foremost “need” is to be saved from the penalty of sin and the wrath that is to come (Rom. 5:9, 6:23)!!!
- The main content of the Apostolic Message: “**CHRIST CRUCIFIED**” (1Cor. 1:22-23, 2:1-2)—not social “progress!”
- Social Gospel advocates downplay or deny *Original Sin* (Ps. 51:5) and the radical nature of human sinfulness—and thus affirm MAN’S ability to usher in the Kingdom Age. But Dan. 2:34-35 & 44-45 teaches that the Kingdom is of **DIVINE** origin! **CHRIST** will inaugurate the Kingdom Age!

# DECEMBER ACTIVITIES



Our special candlelight **Christmas Eve Service** will be on Tuesday evening, **Dec. 24**, at **7:00 PM**. Please invite friends to share in the worship of our wonderful Savior and in the warmth of traditional carols, special readings, and in the glow of our collective fellowship!



Kathy Sloan and her staff from the **Child Evangelism Fellowship** will be with us on **Friday, Dec. 27**, from **10:00 AM to Noon** for a **Christmas Party** event for young people (Preschool through Elementary School Age).

**Please be inviting any interested parties!**



Our friend Pastor Ethan Kallberg of the Lamoille Valley GBC of Vermont has initiated a project in which the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches will be producing their *own* series of Daily Devotional booklets entitled ***Grace for Living***—similar to *Our Daily Bread*, but especially tailored to the needs of Brethren people! Eight CGBCI pastors—*including yours truly!*—have been privileged to submit multiple written contributions to this inaugural effort, which will appear in the Jan-Feb-March 2025 edition (I wrote 16 of them). I should soon be getting a certain quantity of copies, and additional information for personal ordering and making donations to help offset printing and mailing costs is found in the latest edition of ***The Voice***, which can be found in the vestibule.